

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-2-

students attending them. This campaign was conducted in the classrooms, at student rallies, and in the newspapers. Mining was depicted as the most honorable and patriotic calling in which a Czech citizen could engage, and almost equal praise was afforded the steel worker.

School uniforms, decent living quarters, good food, ample opportunities and facilities for participation in sports, and the opportunity to learn an "honorable" trade served to attract many youths. Upon completion of the two years' course at one of these schools the youths are assigned work at some mine or steel plant, depending on the trade in which they were trained. the government succeeded in reaching its goal of 10 thousand; the youths were usually easily persuaded; the greatest difficulty was in overcoming the resistance of their parents, who, more often than not, preferred their children to study some other trade. The goal set in 1951 for the school year ending in the Spring of 1952 was 15 thousand volunteers, and this figure was reached. the goal set in 1952 for the school year ending in the Spring of 1953 is also 15 thousand.

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. In 1950, the Ministry for Manpower instituted a practice, which is still continued, of forming worker brigades in less essential industries for temporary work in the mining, steel, and building industries (it is not done in the heavy machine industry because that industry usually needs highly skilled permanent workers and the members of worker brigades do not normally possess these skills; it has not been done in the chemical industry because that industry became a priority industry only in April 1952, but in the future it may also receive worker brigades). Under this program of worker brigades, the workers at a plant belonging to a non-priority industry are asked to volunteer for work in one of the three industries mentioned above for a period of six months or one year when this practice was first instituted, in 1950, the periods were shorter, perhaps two or three months, but they have since been lengthened to six months and, usually, one year). Some workers volunteer because of the higher wages paid in these industries, while others have to be persuaded to volunteer.

25X1

there were undoubtedly many who volunteered reluctantly. The non-priority factories from which workers were thus recruited carried them as employees of their factories for the duration of their absence; the factories to which these workers were temporarily assigned paid them but did not carry them on their books as employees. Those factories from which volunteers are recruited are confronted with an artificially imposed manpower shortage while their production schedules are unchanged; they either have to increase the rate of production or fail to fulfill the plan. The latter is the usual result and a reduction is made in their production plan for the next year. Upon completion of their volunteer period of employment at the factories of one of these three industries, the workers may return to their permanent places of employment. Some of them, however, attracted by the higher wages, request an extension of volunteer work while others decide to remain permanently. Inasmuch as the Czech government is showing preference to these priority industries, these requests to remain are invariably granted. One of the reasons for taking these workers as volunteers and not transferring them permanently is the lack of housing in the vicinity of the mining, heavy machinery, and building industries, some of which have been expanded in recent years. These volunteer workers, practically all males, live at the factories to which they are assigned in makeshift huts without their families. Should they desire to remain permanently, efforts are made to secure housing for their families in the area.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

-3-

4. Generally speaking, it is quite easy for a worker to transfer from a non-priority industry to one of the five priority industries. Particular emphasis is placed on the mining and steel industries, to which it is possible to transfer even from the other three priority industries. On the other hand, it is virtually impossible to transfer from the priority industries, particularly from the mining and steel industries, to the non-priority industries. Government propaganda is constantly encouraging workers to accept employment with one of the five priority industries.

5. The tremendous emphasis being placed on heavy industry is a clear indication that Czechoslovakia is being converted into a citadel of heavy machinery production. Priority has been given to these five industries in the attempt to build up the heavy machinery industry, often at the expense of industries producing consumer goods and other "non-essential" items. The glass, leather, and textile industries, for example, once renowned for their products, have been gradually reduced to small enterprises.

[redacted] this trend toward concentra- 25X1
tion on heavy industry. [redacted] storage levels of chemicals
needed by non-priority industries were increasing steadily as a result
of the decreasing demand for them. This was particularly true in the
case of auxiliary chemicals used by the textile industry; storage of
these chemicals was placing a considerable strain on [redacted] storage 25X1
facilities and it seemed apparent that their production would have to
be curtailed in the future. This case was so noticeable [redacted]
because the textile industry was such a huge consumer [redacted] that 25X1
any drop in consumption would be much more evident than in some other
industry. At the same time [redacted] the heavy industries, 25X1
especially mining and steel, were steadily increasing their demands
for chemicals. This was particularly true in the case of carbides
and sulphuric acid, the demands for which could scarcely be met.

6. In connection with the emphasis on heavy industry, even the auto-
mobile industry has been affected. In 1951, discussions were held to
determine the feasibility and practicability of transferring the
production of all passenger cars to Poland and having Czechoslovakia
produce only trucks. This plan was abandoned [redacted] 25X1
because of the vehement objections on the part of workers in the
passenger car industry, who were reluctant to be transferred to other
jobs. The plan finally adopted was to produce, in the future, only
one make of passenger car, the Tatra eight-cylinder; the plants for
the production of Skoda and Tatra four-cylinder passenger cars will
be converted to the production of trucks. News of the contemplated
transfer to Poland of all passenger car production and the plan
subsequently adopted was commonly known [redacted] 25X1

SECRET